

Sub D2
21. (Once Amended) A headrest assembly for connecting a headrest to a seat frame, the headrest assembly comprising:

a headrest guide attached to the seat frame and forming a unitary molded component having two sleeves, said sleeves being interconnected in a fixed parallel relationship with one another and each sleeve forming a channel wherein centerlines of each channel are parallel with respect to one another; and

a headrest insert having two generally parallel rods, each rod fixed at one end with respect to the headrest insert and slidable at an opposite end with respect to one channel in the headrest guide.

22. (Once Amended) A headrest assembly for connecting a headrest to a seat frame, the headrest assembly comprising:

F a headrest guide attached to the seat frame and forming a unitary molded component having two sleeves, a plurality of rigid struts extending between the two sleeves, each sleeve forming a channel wherein centerlines of each channel are parallel with respect to one another; and

F a headrest insert having two generally parallel rods, each rod fixed at one end with respect to the headrest insert and slideable at an opposite end with respect to one channel in the headrest guide.

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 9, 11, 13 and 21-27 were pending. Claims 22, 26 and 27 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 9, 11, 13, 21 and 23-25 were rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 9, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 9, 11, 13 and 21-27 remain pending in the subject application.

Claims 9, 11, 13, 21 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Izuno et al. Claims 9, 11, 21 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wallis. Claims 9, 11, 21 and 23-25 stand rejected as being anticipated by Russell. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, claims 9 and 21 have been amended to further define over the cited references. In particular, none of the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest interconnecting two sleeves of the headrest guide in a rigid fixed parallel relationship. Thus, claims 9 and 21 are allowable.

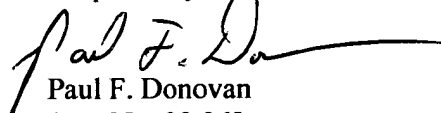
Claims 11, 13 and 23-25 depend from one of claims 9 and 21 and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form to put it in condition for allowance. Claims 26-27 depend from claim 22 and are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all of the remaining pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any issues that can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9, 21 and 22 were amended. Additions are underlined and deletions are show in brackets.

9. (Twice Amended) A headrest assembly for connecting a headrest with respect to a seat frame of a vehicle, the headrest assembly comprising:

a headrest guide having two sleeves, each sleeve forming a channel, the two sleeves rigidly [connected] interconnected in a fixed parallel relationship with respect to one another so that the channel of each sleeve is parallel with the other, the headrest guide forming an integrally molded, unitary component;

a headrest insert; and

two generally parallel rods, each rod fixed at one end with respect to the headrest insert and slideable at an opposite end with respect to one channel in the headrest guide.

21. (Once Amended) A headrest assembly for connecting a headrest to a seat frame, the headrest assembly comprising:

a headrest guide attached to the seat frame and forming a unitary molded component having two sleeves, said sleeves being interconnected in a fixed parallel relationship with one another and each sleeve forming a channel wherein centerlines of each channel are parallel with respect to one another; and

a headrest insert having two generally parallel rods, each rod fixed at one end with respect to the headrest insert and slideable at an opposite end with respect to one channel in the headrest guide.

22. (Once Amended) [The] A headrest assembly [of Claim 21 further comprising]
for connecting a headrest to a seat frame, the headrest assembly comprising:

a headrest guide attached to the seat frame and forming a unitary molded component
having two sleeves, a plurality of rigid struts extending between the two sleeves, each sleeve
forming a channel wherein centerlines of each channel are parallel with respect to one
another; and

a headrest insert having two generally parallel rods, each rod fixed at one end with
respect to the headrest insert and slideable at an opposite end with respect to one channel in
the headrest guide.